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May 28, 2002

Dear Washington Flyers:

I want to thank you for your continued support of a safe and secure general aviation system, particularly since the tragedy on September 11th and to let you know that the Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division is maintaining a watchful eye on potential security provisions at general aviation airports.

The new Transportation Security Administration may pursue the development of new security requirements at general aviation airports. While the depth of potential requirements is unclear, the Washington State DOT Aviation Division encourages the aviation community to continue to be good stewards of our national aviation system. To that end, we are forming a task force with our pilots, general aviation associations, airports, law enforcement and governmental agencies to develop good business practices for general aviation.

We also believe effective protection of our national airspace system cannot be achieved with arbitrary, one-size-fits-all security provisions. Realistic provisions that reflect the perceived local threat and vigilant practices are key to preserving and improving our general aviation system. We will promote best management practices that encourage voluntary behavior that protects the aviation community.

Karl Moore, the WSDOT Aviation Search and Rescue Coordinator will lead the General Aviation Security Task Force and I will bring a resolution before the Washington State Transportation Commission in July stating our commitment to a healthy and secure general aviation community.

In the meantime, we offer the following good business practices for your consideration:

- Remember to lock your aircraft when parked;
- Do not leave log books in the aircraft at any time.

As recent as last week, we received a request from the FAA to distribute a notice from the FBI to airports on uncorroborated information indicating that terrorists may still be interested in the use of aircraft for suicide attacks in the United States and that interest is reportedly in the use of small aircraft.

Washington Flyers
May 28, 2002
Page Two

What to look for:

- Aircraft with unusual or unauthorized modifications.
- Persons or vehicles loitering for extended periods in the vicinity of the airport, especially people in the airport operations area.
- Pilots who appear to be under the control of other persons.
- Persons wishing to obtain aircraft without presenting proper credentials or persons with apparent valid credentials but do not have a corresponding level of aviation knowledge.
- Stolen or missing aircraft.
- Anything that does not look right or does not fit the pattern of lawful, normal activity at your airport.

IN THE CASE OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FBI OFFICE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

The WSDOT Aviation Division encourages you to remain vigilant as stewards of the national aviation system, and together, we will work for provisions that protect our national interests, maintains a healthy general aviation system and supports realistic measures that reflect local threats.

Sincerely,

John Sibold